Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

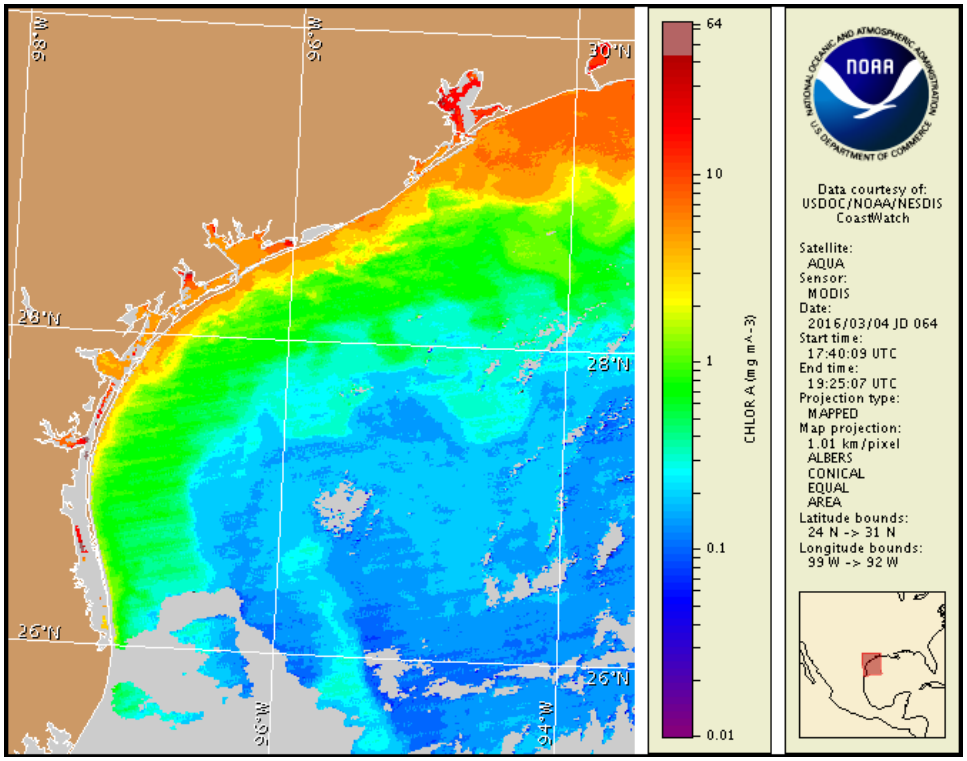
Monday, 07 March 2016

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, February 29, 2016



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from February 26 to March 3: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_publication/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

Karenia brevis (commonly known as Texas red tide) ranges from not present to background concentrations along the coast of Texas. No respiratory irritation is expected Monday, March 7 through Monday, March 14.

Check http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations.

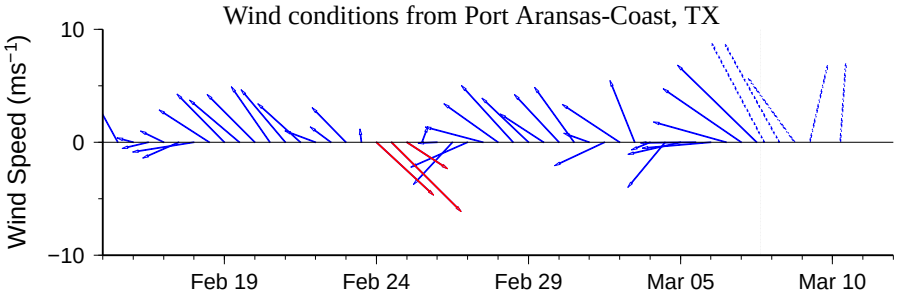
Analysis

Sampling from the Texas A&M University's Imaging FlowCytobot, located on the Port Aransas ship channel, indicates that *Karenia brevis* ranges between 'not present' and 'background' concentrations (TAMU; 2/29-3/4). For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

In recent MODIS Aqua imagery (3/4, shown left), elevated chlorophyll (2-12 μg/L) is visible along- and offshore the coast of Texas from Sabine Pass to the Rio Grande. Elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast.

Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 20 km south from the Port Aransas region from March 4-10.

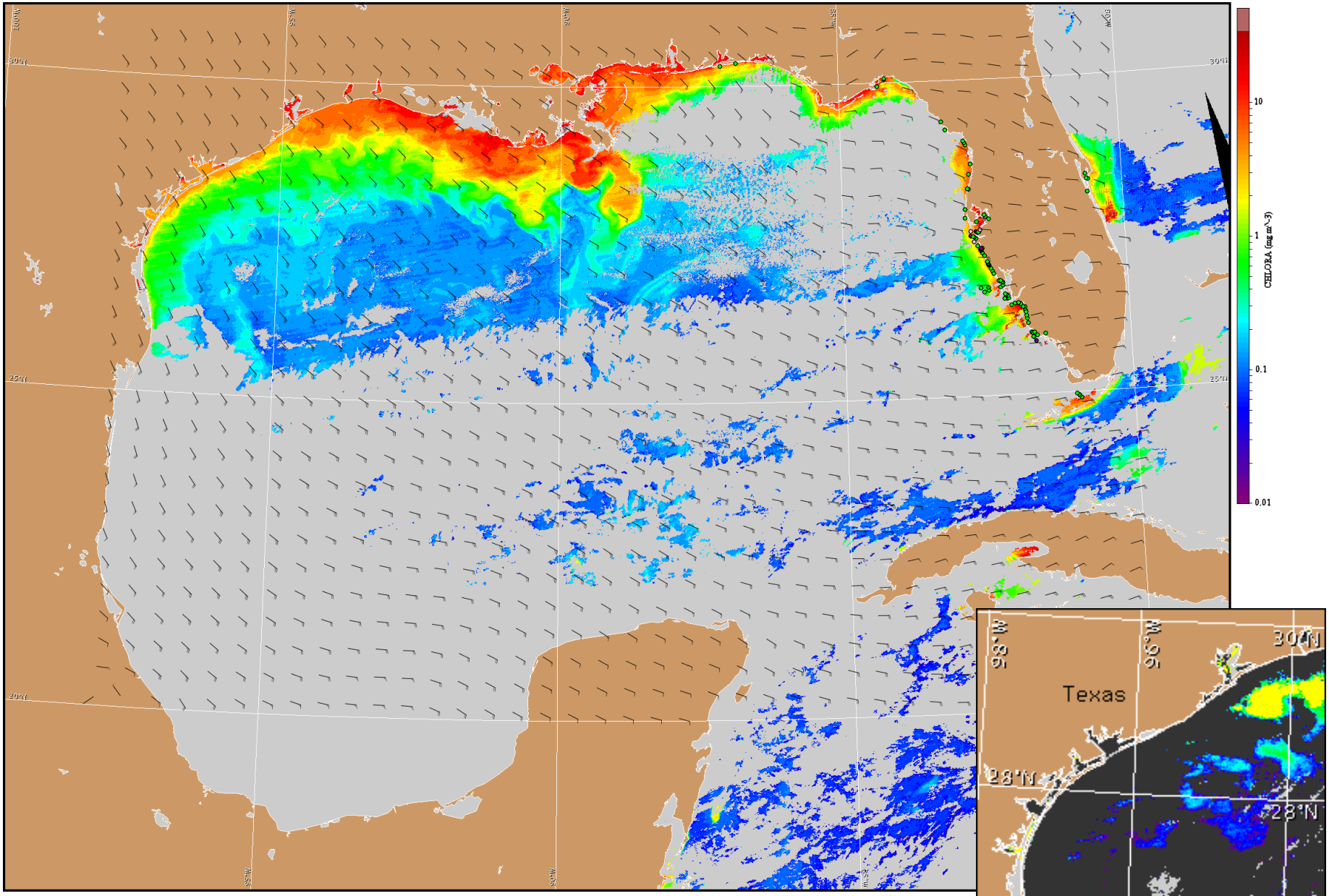
Derner, Kavanaugh



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas to Matagorda Ship Channel: South to southeast winds (20-25kn, 10-13m/s) today through Tuesday becoming south (20-35kn, 10-18m/s) Tuesday night. Southwest to south winds (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) Wednesday through Thursday night. Southwest to west winds (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) Friday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 8, 2016 06Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from February 26 to March 3: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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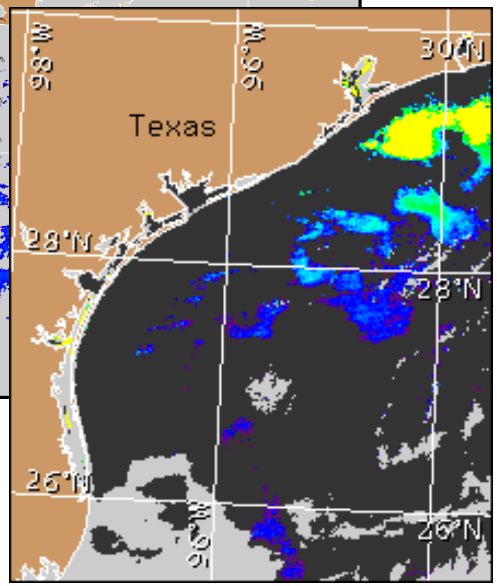

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).